

## KRNV-DT & KENV-DT Issues & Programming

# CRIME TRENDS

September 2012

### News 4

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News 4 @ Noon :45  
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News 4 @ 11:00 p.m. :45  
Mynews4.com website 12:09 a.m.

**Date: September 10, 2012**

### **Description: \$10,000 Reward for information in Douglas County murder case**

A \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the murder of a Minnesota man whose body was found in Douglas County.

Authorities say 40-year-old Francisco Alejandro Lopez-Gonzalez flew from Minnesota to Reno to meet with an acquaintance, Manuel Acevedo, concerning a debt.

Authorities say phone records confirm that he arrived in Reno on May 28, 2011. Lopez-Gonzalez was scheduled to return home the following day, but he never boarded his flight. Shortly thereafter, he was reported as a missing person by his family.

Skeletal remains found Feb. 22 in a shallow grave were later identified as those of Lopez-Gonzalez. An autopsy confirmed that Lopez-Gonzalez had been murdered. His death has been ruled a homicide.

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Mynews4.com website 11:29 a.m.

**Date: September 10, 2012**

### **Description: Dollar Plus and Mini Mart in Sparks robbed – Secret Witness offers reward**

Secret Witness is offering a reward in the amount of \$500.00 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the suspects wanted in connection with the attempted robbery of Dollar Plus and Mini Mart 660 Greenbrae Dr. Sparks, NV.

On Sept. 8, 2012 at about 7:15 p.m., Sparks Police officers responded to 660 Greenbrae Dr. on a report of a disturbance. When officers arrived, they were told that a robbery had happened.

Officers learned that two subjects entered the Dollar Plus and Mini-Mart. The first suspect distracted the clerk, and the second suspect attempted to remove items from behind the counter of the store. The clerk confronted the second man and a fight broke out. The clerk suffered a

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minor cut above his eye during the fight. He was treated at the scene. The suspects dropped the property they had gathered and fled the scene.

The suspects are described as white males 5'8" to 5'10" tall, both weighing approximately 200-220 pounds. The first suspect is described as wearing a black t-shirt and jeans, and the second is described as wearing a dark shirt and shorts and a baseball cap. Their ages were unknown.

Sparks Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspects. Anyone having information relating to this crime or the suspects should contact the Sparks Police Department at 331-2225, Secret Witness at 322-4900, [www.secretwitness.com](http://www.secretwitness.com), or text your tip to 847411 (TIP 411) Keyword - SW.

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	<b>Mynews4.com website 12:51 p.m.</b>	

**Date: September 10 & 11, 2012**

**Description: Man pleads guilty to killing his girlfriend's toddler**

Trevor Swanson, the man accused of abusing and ultimately killing his girlfriend's two-year-old daughter in November 2011, has pled guilty, according to the Washoe County District Attorney's Office.

Swanson, 27, was arraigned on Sept. 4 in the Second Judicial Court in Reno. Swanson's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 18. According to Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Elliott Sadler, Swanson will get 10 years to life in prison with no parole, or he will get 10-25 years in prison.

Swanson was charged with murdering his live-in girlfriend, Tkeyah Jordan's, daughter Nalaya. He also admitted to blowing marijuana smoke in Nalaya's face to "help her sleep." At one point, he violently snatched her, resulting in a dislocated shoulder. Swanson and Tkeyah both knew the shoulder was dislocated, but wouldn't go to the doctor for fear of being accused of child abuse. The injury that led to her death was one that resulted in brain damage, caused by Swanson using his hands and a belt.

Jordan will be sentenced Thursday, and is looking at two to 20 years in prison, according to Sadler.

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Mynews4.com website 4:37 p.m.

**Date: September 11 & 12, 2012**

### **Description: Man caught by police after burglary in Sun Valley**

Washoe County deputies blocked off the area of West 1st Avenue to Gepford Park in Sun Valley after being notified that an unwanted subject was chased out of a home by the homeowner. The person fled the scene before police arrived. Deputies then discovered upon further investigation that the man had a warrant out for his arrest for assault with a deadly weapon, according to Armando Avina with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

Washoe County K9 Unit and RAVEN helicopter was on the scene searching for the suspect. Washoe County K9 Team apprehended the suspect just after 4pm, who was located in the 5200 block of Carrol Drive. He surrendered without incident, Avina says. Everyone in the area was safe and no one was injured in the process.

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Mynews4.com website 6:13 p.m.

**Date: September 11 & 12, 2012**

### **Description: Reno man arrested for lewdness on plane might be former pastor**

The Reno man recently arrested after allegedly performing lewd acts on a plane might be the same man who was removed from a parish in 2002 for inappropriate behavior with a child.

The name of the Reno man arrested for lewdness on a flight from Baltimore to Denver is Dan Drinan, which is also the name of a man who worked at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Martindale, Texas. Drinan was relieved of his duties after allegations of inappropriate behavior with a minor. According to the Diocese of Austin, the man arrested at the Denver airport after watching pornography on a plane, partially naked, might be the same man. Drinan now faces up to 90 days in jail if convicted.

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Mynews4.com website 12:05 p.m.

**Date: September 12 & 13, 2012**

**Description: Man convicted of attempted murder sentenced to 1.5 to 5 years**

A man convicted of attempted murder was sentenced to 18-60 months on Sept. 12, according to Washoe County Deputy DA Elliott Sattler.

Alex Rivers, 24, tried to strangle his girlfriend while driving along Interstate 80 on Jan. 1, according to court documents. He was arrested on three counts of attempted murder.

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News 4 @ 11:00 p.m. :30  
Mynews4.com website 11:22 a.m.

**Date: September 13, 2012**

**Description: Man arrested after armed robbery at Atlantis**

A man was arrested after showing a gun and taking money from the Atlantis Hotel Casino.

Paul Khan, 28, entered the casino the night of Sept. 12. He showed an employee a handgun and demanded money. The employee handed him an undisclosed amount before the suspect fled on foot. Two employees that witnessed the crime chased the suspect through a strip mall parking lot near the Atlantis. Khan dropped the money and continued northbound through the lot.

A Reno Police officer who was working a traffic assignment was notified by one of the Atlantis employees of the crime and was able to locate Khan at a nearby business. All of the money was recovered, as was the suspect's air soft handgun.

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Mynews4.com website	11:45 a.m.

**Date: September 13, 2012**

**Description: Woman sentenced to 4-16 years for child abuse, neglect**

A woman was sentenced to 4-16 years for child abuse and neglect today, according to Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Elliott Sattler.

Tkeyah Jordan, 21, has been convicted of child abuse and neglect after her live-in boyfriend, Trevor Swanson, dislocated her toddler, Nalaya's, shoulder and she did not take her to the doctor for fear they would be charged with child abuse.

Swanson, 27, pled guilty to killing Nalaya using his hands and a belt. His sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 18. According to Sattler, Swanson will get 10 years to life in prison with no parole, or he will get 10-25 years in prison.

Jordan's defense asked for probation, Sattler says. Jordan has served almost a year in prison while the case was pending. She must serve four years in prison before she is eligible for parole.

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Mynews4.com website	4:47 p.m.

**Date: September 12, 2012**

**Description: Priest serving as head of women's shelter is accused of rape**

A suspended Catholic priest who is the head of a women's shelter in Fernley is accused of sexual abuse, as reported by the Reno Gazette-Journal.

The RGJ reports Thomas Cronin is accused of sexually abusing a 17-year-old girl in Missouri in 1979. He was put on suspension by the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City in October of 2010 after a civil lawsuit was filed regarding the sexual assault of the 17-year-old girl. Cronin is the head of Rachel's Sanctuary, a women's shelter in Fernley, according to the RGJ.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) released a statement as warning

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against Cronin and urging him to be removed from his position as head of the shelter. No trial for him has been set as of yet.

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	<b>Mynews4.com website 5:55 p.m.</b>	

**Date: September 12 & 13, 2012**

**Description: Sheriff Vehicles vandalized in South Lake Tahoe**

Between 8:00pm and 9:30pm last night, some El Dorado County Sheriff's Deputies walked into the Sheriff's Office parking lot to find their vehicles covered in graffiti, according to a lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office.

The vandals wrote profanities about police. Police are not sure if the incident was gang-related or not. If you have any information, call the Sheriff's Office at 530-621-5655.

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	<b>Mynews4.com website 12:40 p.m.</b>	

**Date: September 12, 2012**

**Description: One injured in Sparks shooting**

Sparks Police say a man was shot while standing outside of his Sparks home on East O Street at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

According to police, the man was standing outside with another man when a suspicious vehicle was driving slowly past his residence. The two men were watching the car, when a man in the back asked them if they had a problem.

Police say after a brief confrontation the man in the back of the car pulled out a gun and fired three to four rounds, striking one of the men in the arm. The man was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Police are looking for the suspects. The vehicle is described as a white, small, four door sedan with a spoiler and tinted windows. The driver is described as a black male adult. A woman was passenger in the front seat. The shooter is described as a Hispanic male wearing a grey, hooded sweatshirt.

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Secret Witness is offering a reward in the amount of \$1,000.00 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the suspects wanted in connection with the BDW and shooting of a male victim in the area of 10 block of E. O St. Sparks, NV. Anyone having information relating to this crime, the suspect vehicle, or the suspects should contact the Sparks Police Department at 353-2231, Secret Witness at 322-4900, [www.secretwitness.com](http://www.secretwitness.com) or text to Tip Number 847411 (TIP 411) Keyword - SW.

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**News 4**

**Mynews4.com website 3:15 p.m.**

**Date: September 12, 2012**

**Description: Nevada Supreme Court upholds damages against Judge**

The Nevada Supreme Court has upheld a \$50,000 defamation judgment against a former Clark County judge. Justices on Wednesday rejected an appeal by Elizabeth Halverson seeking to overturn the damages awarded to her former assistant, Ileen Spoor.

Spoor sued the judge in 2007. She claimed Halverson defamed her with reports to police and media that Spoor was conducting an illegal ticket-fixing operation and was arranging for friends to avoid jury duty.

Halverson was found liable a year ago by District Judge David Wall after failing to show up for court appearances. Wednesday's decision upholds Wall's ruling.

Halverson was removed from the bench in 2008 by the Nevada Judicial Discipline Commission for mishandling trials, mistreating staff and falling asleep on the bench. She is permanently barred from serving as a judge.

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**News 4**

**News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**3:50** video report by Brooke Boone

**News 4 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**3:50** video report by Brooke Boone

**News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.**

**3:50** video report by Brooke Boone

**Mynews4.com website 6:03 p.m.**

**Date: September 13, 2012**

**Description: Horse advocate allegedly assaults landowner**

A horse advocate and a landowner are not seeing "eye-to-eye". News 4 will show you a video a developer took in the Damonte Ranch area this week of a horse advocate attacking a private property owner. News 4 was able to get both sides of the story today.

"I was moving the horses across the property, being a Good Samaritan, bringing them over to the fence to let them in," says Maryann Bruno, a wild horse advocate, and the woman in the video in question. Bruno has not seen the video.

Di Loreto owns the property Bruno is referring to. Bruno explains her story, saying "I never once touched him, or his camera. All I did was wave my hands. I don't know what the video looks like. Honestly, I was being harassed by them."

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At the request of private landowners, the Department of Agriculture has placed a trap to capture the horses, which is upsetting advocates. Advocates say they have been trying to help keep horses off the roads and out of the traps, but while doing so, they have been trespassing on private property. Some landowners have told them repeatedly to keep out.

When News 4 asked Di Loreto if he was pressing charges, he responded "We're not interested in filing charges against people, or creating that kind of conflict, but we want them to be law abiding citizens."

Di Loreto says there seems to be more horses this year than previous years, and they are becoming a problem, so they called the Department of Agriculture, as they're in charge of the horses on the land.

"The population of horses on the range has exploded," says Ed Foster, the spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture. Foster continued, saying the extremely dry season has more horses coming down into these outlying neighborhoods. "It is definitely a public safety issue, as far as roads go," Foster says.

Foster says there is currently no management program in place because there is not enough money for one. While he understands where the horse advocates are coming from, he says "These horses are invasive, not indigenous, regardless what anybody says."

According to the Department of Agriculture, they are not performing a gather in these areas. Instead, any horses they trap will go to the Fallon Livestock Yard for sale. Once sold the horses could go to a good home or end up as food or glue. Advocates say they are trying to keep the horses from being killed.

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	<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:45</b>
	<b>Mynews4.com website 5:34 p.m.</b>	

**Date: September 13, 2012**

**Description: Man pleads guilty to charges of extortion via Craigslist, attempted rape**

The man who pretended to be a woman on Craigslist to meet bi-curious women pled guilty today to charges of extortion and attempted rape, according to Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Amos Stege.

Authorities said Schmitt placed personal ads on Craigslist to represent himself as a female looking for female companionship. After a victim would make contact with Schmitt and share personal information and photographs, Schmitt would set up a meeting place and use the victim's



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personal information and photographs to blackmail, extort, and coerce the victim into engaging in sexual acts with him. If the victim refused or resisted Schmitt would physically force himself on them and sexually assault them. According to police, one victim was molested.

Schmitt pled guilty to the two charges and will be sentenced Nov. 8.

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	<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:30</b>
	<b>Mynews4.com website 11:28 a.m.</b>	

**Date: September 14, 2012**

**Description: Reno man arrested on Animal Cruelty charges**

A Reno man was arrested Sept. 13 after allegedly dropping a puppy off a third floor balcony, resulting in its death.

Police say John Wayne Ponsack, 57, dropped a four-month-old puppy off a third story balcony in the 4000 block of Gardella Avenue around 8:40pm. Police were called after the owner of the puppy hit Ponsack when he allegedly threw the puppy off the balcony.

The puppy was rushed to the emergency vet hospital and had to be put down due to extensive injuries.

Ponsack was not at the crime scene when police arrived, but was later found extremely intoxicated and walking along Highway 580 between Parr and McCarran Boulevards. He was charged with one count of cruelty to animals and with being an intoxicated pedestrian in a roadway.

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	<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:45</b>
	<b>Mynews4.com website 11:09 p.m.</b>	

**Date: September 15 & 16, 2016**

**Description: Missing 13-year-old found**

Reno police are searching for Isaac Nieves, a 13 year old boy who disappeared Saturday, September 15th.

Nieves was reportedly last seen at 6 p.m. On the 15th walking on Valley Road, on his way to a nearby elementary school to play basketball. Nieves didn't return home that night, and family and friends have been unable to contact him.

Nieves is still missing, and is described by police as a 13 year old Hispanic boy, roughly 5 feet

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tall and weighing just under 100 pounds. He was last seen wearing green basketball shorts and a white tank top that had a Hug High School logo on it.

If you have any information on Nieves' whereabouts, you are advised to call Reno police.

**Updated: 9/16 4:20 pm**

=====update=====

Nieves was found, police don't suspect foul play.

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**News 4**

**Mynews4.com website 6:03 p.m.**

**Date: September 14, 2012**

**Description: Criminal complaint filed against wild horse Foundation**

A local wild horse preservation foundation is facing three misdemeanor charges filed with the Storey County District Attorney's office this week. The criminal complaint lists the Let 'Em Run Foundation, with Failure to brand or mark animals grazing on open range, abandoning an animal and causing or allowing an animal to be unjustifiably injured and/or to be deprived of necessary food or drink; all misdemeanor offenses.

According to a report done by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, eight horses were adopted by the foundation in Carson City, in December 2011. Those horses were transported to property owned by Lance Gilman in Storey County where they were let out on what was supposed to be properly fenced in private land. Ed Foster, Spokesperson with the Department of Agriculture, says the horses should have been branded by the new owner and were not. He also says one of the horses got out and they found it near McCarran and Clear Water Way, in Reno.

Lacy J. Dalton runs the Let 'Em Run Foundation. She was not available and did not return our phone calls prior to the airing of this story. Willis Lamm and Shirley Allen are also listed as Defendants. They were in Carson City today during a demonstration against the capturing and selling of Virginia Range wild horses. They say this complaint is unjustified.

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**News 4**

**News 4 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**:35**

**News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.**

**:35**

**Date: September 15 & 16, 2012**

**Description: Family robbed and car stolen**

Law enforcement officials are searching for a man they say robbed his family at gunpoint and stole their vehicle.

Earlier this afternoon police and county law enforcement officials ended up at a motel at 4th and Wells where they found the stolen vehicle. It turned into quite the scene.

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Reno police Sgt. Colby Palmer says a S.W.A.T. vehicle was used during the search however this was not a SWAT standoff. The suspect was not at the location.

According to police, the suspect is 22 year old Leon Munera. He is a Hispanic male about 5'4". Police are advising anyone who sees Munera to call 911.

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